



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): A method of regulating weight in an overweight non-human animal comprising

in combination, during a period of time:

(a) administering on a daily basis one or more servings of dairy products to the animal in an amount sufficient to induce weight loss, reduce ~~prevent~~ weight gain, and/or increase the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue in the a non-human animal, the one ore more servings comprising a therapeutically effective amount of calcium above suboptimal levels, and

(b) maintaining the overweight animal on a restricted caloric diet below ad lib,

wherein consuming the dairy products during the period of time produces a benefit attributable to the dairy products selected from the group consisting of inducing weight loss, reducing weight gain, and/or increasing the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue in the overweight animal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammalian pet.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a dog or cat.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the animal is a farm animal.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method reduces the risk of osteoarthritis, ligament injuries, perineal dermatitis, diabetes mellitus, cardiomyopathy, and/or urologic syndrome.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the dairy products are administered in an amount sufficient to treat, reduce or attenuate obesity.

Claim 8 (**currently amended**): An animal food package comprising

a container,

a calcium-fortified or dairy-containing animal food within the container, and

a dietary plan for administering the food to an animal that is overweight,

wherein the dietary plan comprises, in combination during a period of time: (a) administering on a daily basis one or more servings of the food, the one or more servings comprising a therapeutically effective amount of calcium above suboptimal levels, and (b) restricting caloric intake below ad lib, and

a description indicating that consuming the animal food according to the dietary plan during the period of time produces ~~of the~~ benefits attributed to ~~of~~ calcium in inducing weight loss, ~~reducing preventing~~ weight gain, and/or increasing the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue, in the overweight animal.

Claim 9 (original): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal food is pet food.

Claim 10 (original): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal food is farm animal feed.